

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are currently pending and have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to two patentably distinct inventions as follows:


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|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Group I | Claim 1, drawn to a functional benzotriazole compound of Formula (I);
and |
| Group II | Claims 2-7, drawn to a process for preparing a functionalized
benzotriazole compound of Formula (I). |

Applicants elect the claimed method of Group I, claim 1, drawn to a functional benzotriazole compound of Formula (I). Applicants submit that the election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in divisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part applications. If the elected product claims are found allowable, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected process claims in the present case, pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

For the purpose of examination, the Examiner further requires a species election of one compound falling within the scope of Formula (I). Applicants hereby elect a compound of Formula (I) wherein R₁ is hydrogen, R₂ is hydrogen, R₃ is hydrogen, and X₁ is bromine.

Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa B. Kolo
Patent Office Reg. No. 35,225

Van H. Nguyen
Patent Office Reg. No. 56,571

Attorneys for Applicants
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112--4498
(212) 408-2500